

III. REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 20-22, 24, and 28 are canceled. Claims 23, 25-27 and 29 are amended. New Claims 30-31 are added. Claims 23, 25-27, and 29-31 are submitted for consideration.

Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the claim rejections under 35USC112 and 35USC101. In addition new independent claim 30 has been added which includes all of the limitation of former claim 24. New claim 31 is submitted to conform to proper method claim structure and contains limitations equivalent to claim 30. Applicant submits that all of the claims now submitted for consideration define patentable subject matter in accordance with the Examiners indication in the subject office action.

These amendments are submitted after final rejection in order to place the claims in condition for allowance, namely consistent with the scope of former claim 24.

Discussion of the Cited References


The newly cited reference Gilliland (6,160,647) is cited as primary support of the examiner's rejection based on obviousness. In the system of the cited reference fiber optic transmitter and receiver elements are mounted on two separate boards connected perpendicularly to a base system printed circuit board. In this respect, the system of Gilliland fails to show the use of parallel insulating sheets as described in the claims as amended. With reference to figure 3 of Gilliland elements 110 and 114 are mounted beside one another along one edge of a main transceiver printed circuit board 102. At column 9, lines 60 to column 10 line 11, the elements 110 and 114 are mounted perpendicular to

PCB 102. Consequently they cannot be disposed in a parallel relationship as required by the claims as amended. Nevertheless, applicant submits that, in view of the submittal of new claims 30 and 31, the rejections based on the reference Gilliland are now moot.

In view of the remarks stated above, Applicant submits that all of the claims under consideration contain patentable subject matter and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date